

THE

AMERICAN MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

Vol. I.

June 1, 1837.

No. 5.

ART. I.—ON DISEASE OF THE KIDNEY, REFERRED TO THE BLADDER.

In a late number of the "Medico-chirurgical Review,"¹ Mr. Henry James Johnson has quoted some remarks of Sir Benjamin Brodie on this subject, from a note appended to the first edition of his lectures on the "Diseases of the Urinary Organs." To these Mr. Johnson adds some cases in confirmation of his positions, from which he concludes, that "if the symptoms of what is popularly called 'irritable bladder' are conjoined with an albuminous condition of the urine, the surgeon should be aware that he may have a very formidable malady to contend with. There is reason to believe that it is not merely one, but several organic alterations of the kidney, that give rise to this train of symptoms and consequences."

We have had many opportunities for testing the accuracy of these views, but in none were they more signally illustrated than in a deeply interesting case which fell under our care some time ago, and the particulars of which were detailed in another work.² The patient—an intelligent army surgeon—had long suffered under most distressing irritability of the bladder, with occasional pain in the region of both kidneys; and, on one or two occasions, with severe nephritic symptoms, which yielded to appropriate measures. A tumour gradually arose in the right lumbar region, which could be distinctly felt on pressing the corresponding part of the abdomen, but its origin and connection were very obscure. He had consulted many eminent practitioners, by most of whom the irritability of the bladder was presumed to indicate *vesical* rather than *renal* mischief. When we first saw him, along with Dr. Gibson, an able physician of Baltimore, he was passing a large quantity of albumen with his urine, as was rendered evident on holding it in a spoon over a candle. This circumstance, taken along with the diminished specific gravity, impelled us to refer the main—if not the whole—mischief to the kidneys,—a view which was confirmed on dissection, the bladder, although contracted, being healthy, whilst the right kidney was extensively diseased, containing a multitude of hydatids, and forming the abdominal tumour to which allusion has been made. The left kidney was likewise in a pathological condition, and had calculi imbedded in it.

We are satisfied, also, from positive experience, that many symptoms, which are looked upon as those of colic, colitis, &c., are produced by renal disease, and especially by the passage of a calculus from the kidney. The cases may generally be discriminated by the circumstance,—that the pain

¹ July, 1836, p. 193.

² General Therapeutics, p. 304.

the latter is usually on one side of the abdomen, on a level with the kidney—not around the umbilicus—and by there being uneasiness at the part where the corresponding ureter terminates in the bladder. We have several times seen such cases without there being any retraction of the testicle, numbness of thigh, perpetual inclination to pass the urine, &c. which have been enumerated as the constant concomitants of the passage of calculus from the kidney.

ART. II.—MEDICAL STATISTICS OF NEW ORLEANS.

BY PROFESSOR BARTON, OF THE MEDICAL COLLEGE OF LOUISIANA.¹

The following statements, from a most respectable source, will at first excite surprise. They strongly corroborate the views of Professor Caldwell, referred to in our second number, that the mortality of New Orleans is mainly constituted of the transient population.

"But of all the circumstances going to prove the salubrious and flourishing condition of the country, (as to population,) there are none so much and so properly relied on, as its influence upon its native and acclimated population, as proved by the relative numbers of children and old persons to the great mass of the inhabitants; and here there can be no room for mistake, or partiality, or prejudice. I have taken some trouble to ascertain the truth, and have used *official records* for the purpose.

"I have compared Louisiana with Massachusetts as one of the most northern, and with Pennsylvania as a middle state; the results are, that in *this state* (Louisiana) children form

	1 in every 3.55 of the inhabitants.
In Massachusetts as	1 " 3.95 " "
In Pennsylvania as	1 " 3.22 " "

"I then compared New Orleans with the four northern cities; the following were the results: in New Orleans there was 1 child in every 3.96 of the inhabitants.

In Baltimore there was	1 in every 3.68
In Philadelphia there was	1 " 4.34
In New York there was	1 " 3.88
In Boston there was	1 " 4.35

"This certainly will be a most unexpected result to most of you; it clearly proves, when coupled with the fact that not 1 in 100, or 2 or 300 scarcely, who emigrate here, are included in this class, and go, of course, to swell the ratio against it, that Louisiana, and especially this "grave yard" New Orleans, (as it has been called,) is the healthiest city in the union for children!

"Let us next proceed to examine how far this 'dreadful climate' is favourable to advanced life; for if we can prove to you, and from official records, that it is not only the best climate for children, but that the chance of acquiring a green, vigorous, and elastic old age here, is superior to that of any large city of this country, my object will have been accomplished. For this purpose I have compared New Orleans with the capitals of the two states above mentioned, and with New York and Baltimore, and this is the result.

In Boston there was over 60 years of age, the ratio to the whole population,	as 1 in 3.161
In New York there was over 60	1 in 3.533
In Philadelphia there was over 60	1 in 2.487
In Baltimore there was	1 in 2.573
While in New Orleans there was	1 in 2.486!

¹ The Transylvania Journal of Medicine, for Oct., Nov., and Dec., 1836. p. 639.

"But farther, to evince to you that this climate is highly and peculiarly favourable to *extreme old age*, I made another estimate, to show the relative proportion of those above 100 years of age to the whole population; and as North Carolina has been remarked for the longevity of *her* inhabitants, I felt no hesitation or apprehension in including her in the comparison, and it resulted as follows:—

In Massachusetts there was over 100 years of age	1 for every	10.517
In Pennsylvania there was	1	" 9.765
In North Carolina there was	1	" 2.081
In South Carolina there was	1	" 2.441
While in Louisiana there was	1	" 1.608!

"Still not satisfied, and that there might be no room to complain, and as this city has not only been considered the most sickly part of the state, but credulity, ignorance, or spleen, has pictured it to be one of the most sickly cities in the world, I made the following exhibit, to show its *peculiar* and *superior* advantages in soothing and ameliorating the advanced condition of life, and promoting its acquirement, and its immense advantages in this respect over the other large American cities.

In Boston there was but 1 over 100 years of age	in every	61,392
In New York there was 1	"	8,570
In Philadelphia there was 1	"	3,094
In Baltimore there was 1	"	1,300
In Charleston there was 1	"	2,329
While in New Orleans there was 1	"	997!

"These results will be still more astonishing, if you will call to mind, that this ratio in favour of our city, is very much diminished against us, by there being no emigrants of *this age*, or any way approaching to it, they consisting mostly of those of middle life. We have then the astounding and to many incredible fact, and it is derived from *official records*, I repeat, that Louisiana, and particularly New Orleans, is not only highly salubrious for her native and acclimated population, but is, so far as it regards them, the healthiest large city in America! These results will not be materially varied when we come to test them by the data furnished by her diseases."

ART. III.—REMOVAL OF PART OF THE THYROID GLAND.

BY ROBERT LISTON, ESQ.²

Professor of Clinical Surgery to London University College, &c.

In the removal of such enlargements of the thyroid gland as render an operation indispensable, Mr. Liston combines incision with constriction by ligature around the base of the tumour.

The first of these cases—says Mr. W. J. E. Wilson, Lecturer on Anatomy and Physiology, who is the reporter—is detailed in the "Elements of Surgery" (Liston's), p. 287.

A man, forty-seven years of age, from the Highlands, was affected with enlargement of the isthmus. The tumour was about the size of a goose's egg, and, pressing upon the trachea, produced dyspnoea, and threatened suffocation. "I surrounded," says Mr. Liston, "the lower part of the tumour by two semicircular incisions, and, dissecting cautiously beneath its base, detached it from its loose connections. An armed needle was then passed through the middle of the neck of the tumour, as near to the trachea as possible, and its remaining attachment enclosed by the separate portions of the

² British Annals of Medicine, No. I, p. 11.

ligature, firmly applied." The separation went on favourably, and in about a month the patient went home well.

The second case is that of Anne Rutland, aged twenty-three, who was admitted into the North London Hospital on the 13th of October, 1836. She is a native of Taunton, diminutive in stature, and childish in appearance and disposition. Her head is large; features and limbs as if arrested at a juvenile development. Her parents were healthy. At the age of fifteen, after a slight cold, a swelling became apparent upon the front of her neck, in the situation of the thyroid gland. It increased rapidly for three years without pain, and her health remained unimpaired. Latterly it has become troublesome on account of its weight and size, extending from one ear across the trachea until it nearly reached the opposite, and gave rise to considerable dyspnoea. It felt firm, and moved freely beneath the integument, particularly on the right side, which seemed separated from the main body of the gland. The external jugular vein and several large venous branches were seen meandering over its surface.

She had applied for relief to the Taunton Hospital, and also in town, but the remedial aid was confined to an amenorrhoea, under which she has always laboured since the first indication of a menstrual discharge at the age of seventeen.

Operation. Dec. 14.—An incision was made over the right side of the neck, the platysma and cervical fascia divided, and the soft parts dissected back from around the tumour. Two bleeding vessels were secured. A needle, mounted on a handle, was now passed through its base, and crossed by another introduced at right angles to it. Strong double ligatures, were threaded upon the needles, and they were withdrawn. The ends were now held forcibly around the base of the tumour, which was covered with lint dipped in cold water.

A slight oozing of blood occurred at intervals during the night.

"On the 21st, a slight blush around the wound was apparent; the constricted tumour was dark-coloured and dry; an oozing of an offensive ichor was discharged from around its neck. Another ligature was drawn tightly around it.

On the 23d, the connection of the tumour was so slight that it was divided by the knife.

The wound has gone on most favourably, and she is now nearly well.

Upon making a section of the tumour, it was found to consist of a delicate cellular network, containing a transparent gelatinous deposit. It was highly vascular, and in two or three points displayed small cavities filled with coagulated blood. The exterior was formed of several layers of condensed fibrous envelopes.

ART. IV.—MODE OF MAKING CAPSULES OF GELATINE.

BY ALFRED GUILLOU, GRADUATE OF PHIL. COL. PHARM.¹

The invention of these capsules, by the French *pharmaciens*, is a decided pharmaceutical improvement, as regards the administration of several nauseous articles, and especially the balsam of copaiba. The gelatine undergoes solution in the stomach, and does not, therefore, interfere with the operation of the contained agent."²

M. Guillou, having instituted several experiments, succeeded in imitating

¹ The American Journal of Pharmacy, &c., for March 1837, p. 20.

² American Medical Intelligencer, No. IV. p. 60.

the French article so completely, that many of those made by him were sold as French by dealers who purchased from him.

The following is M. Guillou's process:—

The apparatus necessary for manufacturing the article in question is certainly not extensive and by no means costly. Provide a suitable number of narrow tin dishes, about eighteen or twenty inches in length, half an inch in depth, and about two inches in width. In the length of these, and in a line, plant or solder at the distance of one inch from each other a number of smoothly turned metallic knobs of an ovoid shape, whose apex, having been somewhat lengthened out, forms a thin neck by which they are attached to the tin dishes. This neck may be of about half an inch in length. Procure a sheet of tin, and perforate it with round holes, of which the diameter will be equal to the thickness of the knob. Having greased the knobs well with lard, so as not only to prevent any adhesion to them, but also the adhesion of the inner sides of the capsules to each other after casting, pour melted glue (the most transparent having been selected,) upon them and allow it to become tolerably stiff. If you think the shell is too thin, a second coat may be poured over the first. The capsule having been thus cast is allowed to cool down to about the consistence of common India rubber, and, having run a knife around the neck, you twist it briskly around and pull it upwards off from the knob. *It will immediately collapse and lose the form imparted to it on the mould, but if laid aside to dry, will, by the time it has hardened, have regained the desired rotundity.* Place it upon your perforated tin or 'filler,' and you can thus conveniently fill it with the article prescribed. A small piece of moistened gold-beater's skin serves to cover the opening, and is easily concealed by the application of a thick coat of a solution of gum arabic with a camel's hair pencil. This last part of the operation being intended solely for the 'finish' of the article, is only necessary in those cases where it is proposed to keep a supply on hand already filled, and need not be adopted where the immediate use of the remedy dispenses with any necessity of so rigidly consulting appearances.

ART. V.—SUICIDE BY POISONING.

BY M. BOUTIGNY.

A remarkable case, showing the possibility of serious error, where all may seem to be manifest, has recently been published by M. Boutigny, Member of the Medical Jury of the Department of the Eure.¹

A woman, whose age was nearly thirteen lustres, her husband being upwards of seventy years old, and who was of bad temper and liable to attacks of hysteria, accused the latter of attempting to poison her. The justice of peace, accompanied by Dr. Baudry, went to the house, and found, in a place pointed out by the wife, a vessel containing arsenic in coarse powder; and a *rôtie au vin*, which the woman was to have taken, that likewise contained a great quantity of arsenic. These facts were enough to cause the husband to be arrested. On the following day, or the day after, she got up, and was well for eight days afterwards.

When the man was asked as to his motives for poisoning his wife, he declared that such an idea never entered his head; that he had never dreamed of committing so serious a crime, and that, moreover, he had every inducement to wish her to live, his income being dependent upon her,—after her death her small fortune passing into collateral channels.

¹ Annales d'Hygiène Publique, &c. Juillet, 1836.

Eight days from the time of the alleged offence, his wife was taken with a paroxysm of insanity, she ran into the country and committed a thousand extravagances; she returned home, however, where she died the following day.

On examining the body, great derangement was found, especially in the intestines. The digestive tube was sent to Evreux, and a large quantity of arsenic was found in it, resembling in its state of division that which was found in the vessel, and in the *rôtie*.

When asked, whether the arsenic might not have been taken before the arrest of the husband, MM. Boutigny and Baudry very properly replied unhesitatingly in the negative.

The husband was immediately set at liberty.

"But what," says M. Boutigny, "might have happened had not the unhappy man been arrested? We cannot think of it without shuddering. How many eloquent phrases would not the accusing voice of the dying female have suggested to the prosecuting counsel! and then the enormous quantity of arsenic found in the digestive tube of the woman, in the *rôtie au vin*, in the house, and with the clear and positive declarations of men of science on the matter! all would have concurred to cause the condemnation of the husband as a cowardly poisoner; although innocent of the crime of which he had been accused."

ART. VI.—RESUSCITATION OF ASPHYXIED INFANTS BY SUCKING THEIR BREASTS.

BY DR. KOCK, OF HEILIGENBEIL.¹

It is an old recommendation with the nurses, that the nipples of an asphyxied child should be sucked, with the view of arousing it, and it has been proposed that a cupping-glass should be applied over one or both of them.² Dr. Kock, in the journal before us, gives the results of a case in which this plan succeeded after insufflation, bathing, friction, &c., had been used without success. He first sucked forcibly the left, and afterwards the right breast, but in vain; on drawing again the left breast, however, he discovered a slight pulsation of the heart, which increased with every fresh suction; after he had repeated this, first on one breast, and then on the other, for ten minutes, the child cried.

Dr. Kock's experience has been, that the plan succeeded only in the case of *female* infants; this would have been singular if generally true; and to a reckless theorist the data would have been enough on which to build a plausible hypothesis, and to stifle opposition by an appeal to "facts." Dr. Kock, however, adds, that some midwives, of whom he had enquired, had arrived at opposite results,—both the one and the other being purely accidental.

We cannot understand how the effect is produced, except by exciting the

¹ *Neue Zeitschrift für geburtskunde*, von Busch, d'Outrepoint und Ritgen. Band. iii. Heft 1, s. 140.

² Velpeau, *Traité élémentaire de l'art des Accouchemens*, &c., p. 937. Wagner, in *Encyclopädisches Wörterbuch*, u. s. w. Band. iii. s. 557. See, also, art. "Asphyxia," by the editor of this journal, in the *American Cyclopaedia of Practical Medicine*, p. 501.

action of the muscles of respiration through the general stimulation induced by it. It appears to be impossible that any dilatation of the chest can be produced by it, as has been believed by some credulous persons. Dr. Kock thinks it cannot be owing merely to the mechanical suction and dragging of the skin, but that "there must be a certain dynamic, antagonising influence exerted;"—an expression, rather than an explanation!

ART. VII.—ON SCIRRHOUS AND CANCEROUS DEGENERATIONS OF THE UTERUS.

BY S. BAMALARI.¹

In the second number of the "Intelligencer" (page 32), we drew the attention of our readers to the translation of Duparcque's valuable work "On the Functional and Organic Diseases of the Uterus," by Dr. Warrington of this city. To this gentleman we are indebted for the following version of the observations, by an Italian physician, on degenerations, which form a considerable and an important part of the work of Duparcque.

The author, after having claimed for his celebrated compatriot, Monteggia, the merit of being the first to propose the operation of excision of a part of the uterus in scirrhus affections of that organ, relates the following case in which he himself practised this operation.

M^e. Vicari, widow, aged twenty-seven years, of a sanguineo-bilious temperament, mother of five children, is said to have been for several years afflicted with puerperal metritis. The commencement of her present disease she fixed at eight months ago, at which time her catamenia were very irregular; she was very feeble, had no appetite, and suffered from pains in the vagina, hypogastrium and loins. In the evening of the day on which the author first saw her, (20th June, 1835,) she had copious hemorrhage, which however ceased spontaneously. She complained of extreme prostration of strength; there was a cachectic hue of the skin; constant fever with evening exacerbations; want of appetite; and a discharge of fetid sero-sanguinolent matter by the vulva. Manual exploration enabled M. Bamalari to discover a hard projecting tumour, painful to the touch, and bleeding, occupying the neck of the uterus and involving the whole of the inferior lip of the os tincae. By the aid of Recamier's speculum, this tumour exhibited a deep red colour with irregular surface; it was as large as an egg and very hard. The adjacent parts were healthy, except the posterior portion, which was inflamed and excoriated. The patient acceded to the proposition of an operation, which was performed on the 30th of June. After having put her in a position similar to that for lithotomy, the operator introduced the speculum of Recamier in such a manner that its superior extremity joined the upper portion of the vagina, and that the tumour was embraced in the cavity of the instrument; after having placed the latter in the hands of an assistant, and used an injection of tepid water, the surgeon, with the double hooked forceps of Museux in his left hand, drew the tumour towards him, while, with the curved scissors in his right hand, he made the incision. The operation occupied but a short time, was not very painful, and was attended with little hemorrhage.

The extirpated tumour presented all the anatomical characters of the cancerous tissue. It was divided internally by numerous white glassy and apparently cartilaginous striæ. Some soft points contained a liquid of various colours and consistence, enclosed in the equally softened parietes.

¹ Encyclographie des Sciences Médicales, Mai, 1836, from Omodei, Annali Universali di Medicina, Jan., 1836.

The healing process went on without any remarkable accident, the inflammatory reaction was slight; frequent lotions, dressings of lint often renewed, two applications of nitrate of silver, were all the means used for four weeks. The natural opening of the uterus remained permeable, and the patient recovered her former state of health. An exploration made four months after the operation left no doubt respecting the cure.

Experience, both in hospital and private practice, has induced the author to believe that cancerous affections of the uterus always commence in the neck of the organ, near or at the os tincæ, and he doubts whether this disease ever attacks the fundus or body primarily. Cancer of the neck of the uterus does not present the appearance of cancer with a scirrhus base, like that which occupies the glandular tissue of the breast, parotids, &c., it rather resembles the cutaneous cancers, especially those which occur in the dermoid tissue of the face; it commences with a membranous surface, upon which small tumours and fissures are developed, giving place to ulcers extending in depth and surface, and running into each other, until the neck of the uterus becomes invaded by a large and deep wound, which in a very short time is rapidly propagated to the rest of the uterus, and soon also to the contiguous parts, as the vagina, bladder and rectum. Scarpa has remarked that the progressive tendency of the disease in question is one of the most incontestable facts in practical surgery; such, however, is not the progress of other diseases to which the uterus is subject, as induration and hypertrophy of the neck, steatomatous alterations, polypi and fibrous bodies, which conditions remain stationary for years without degenerating into scirrhus affections.

The author does justice to both internal and external means; such as mercurials, cicuta, arsenic, compression, and other remedies usually proposed for the treatment of cancerous diseases.

Extirpation performed at the commencement of the disease, and before cancerous cachexy becomes developed, is the only anchor of hope in this class of affections.

M. Bamarli thinks that in most cases excision is preferable to the use of caustic,—the first is effected promptly, it is not followed by a discharge which of itself may aggravate the condition of the uterus by the putrid quality of the fluid which is secreted; the surgeon has it in his power to circumscribe the diseased part exactly when he uses the knife, and the hemorrhage is easily arrested by means of the *tampon*. The caustic, on the contrary, requires to be applied several times, and each application causes a fresh attack of inflammation. Its action is uncertain, and often it cannot be applied to parts which we wish to destroy. The retention of the eschar retards the cure, and the swelling of the parts caused by it often prevents the use of topical applications that may be required to allay the inflammation.

The author concludes by rejecting the operation for the removal of the whole uterus, as offering no chance of success.

ART. VIII.—UNDOUBTED CASE OF CRYING IN THE WOMB.

BY ROBERT COLLINS, M. D., LATE MASTER OF THE DUBLIN LYING-IN HOSPITAL.

In one of the most interesting practical and statistical treatises on obstetrics that have appeared in modern times,¹ we have the following satisfactory case of *vagitus uterinus*,—a phenomenon of interest to the obstetrical physiologist and medical jurist.

¹ A Practical Treatise on Midwifery, &c. &c. By Robert Collins, M. D., Late Master of the Dublin Lying-in Hospital. pp. 526. Lond. 1835.

The author is detailing cases of rupture of the uterus or vagina.

No. 21,—Was thirty-six hours in labour with her second child, (her first born alive). The pains were at no time severe, nor did the head descend so low into the pelvis as to cause the face to turn into the hollow of the sacrum. Her pulse was quick; she seemed anxious and restless; her strength began to fail, so much so that her pulse faltered; her countenance became ghastly; extremities cold and livid, with vomiting; the hour previous she had no alarming symptoms; she was immediately delivered with the crotchets. The hand was then passed to ascertain the extent of the laceration, (as there could hardly be a doubt as to it having occurred,) but none could be satisfactorily detected. She never rallied. She died in seventeen hours.

On dissection, a laceration was found in extent about two inches, anteriorly to the left side, running from the junction of the uterus and vagina upwards in a longitudinal direction, and confined to the muscular substance of the uterus, the peritoneum remaining uninjured. There was a considerable effusion of blood between this and the muscular substance near the lacerated part. There was also a quantity of bloody fluid in the cavity of the abdomen. The intestines were exceedingly vascular. The most extraordinary occurrence in this case was the *respiration* and *crying* of the child *in utero*; both of which were heard as distinctly as possible four hours before delivery, the latter at a distance of some yards from the couch on which the patient was lying. These facts were witnessed by myself and assistants, besides several of the pupils, both by stethoscopic examination, and otherwise. The head was, at this time, high in the pelvis; the soft parts partially dilated; and the waters but a short time discharged. The cry was so distinct that I imagined the child was placed merely under the bed-clothes. When called to witness this truly singular phenomenon, I little credited the truth of what I was told, and confess, had I not been present, I should have remained sceptical.

How forcibly should this fact prove the uncertainty of some of the tests most confided in, as indicative of the murder of new-born infants! It also affords the medical writers, in such cases, a salutary caution in addition to those so ably advanced by the learned Dr. William Hunter on this subject.

ART. IX.—SUCCESSFUL CASES OF LITHOTOMY.

BY DR. DUDLEY, OF LEXINGTON, KY.

In the published "Report and Discussions at the *Académie Royale de Médecine* of Paris, on the Comparative Advantages of Lithotomy and Lithotrity," M. Velpeau refers to the ratio of deaths from the former operation in the practice of different lithotomists. In this statement he mentions the proportion in that of Dr. Dudley, of Transylvania University, to be one in seventy-two,—a far greater degree of success than has occurred to any other surgeon of any period.

In commenting on the remarks of M. Velpeau, Professor Peter, of Morrison College, Transylvania University, has the following note.¹

"Flattering as this notice is, in the midst of the great metropolis of Europe [Paris], of the success of our great back-woods surgeon, and great as that success appears, compared with that of the first surgeons of the world, the statement given in the text is yet below the truth. Dr. Dudley has performed lithotomy one hundred and thirty-eight times, and has *not lost one* by

¹ The Transylvania Journal of Medicine, &c., for Jan. Feb. and March, 1837. p.91.

the operation. The French surgeon [M. Velpeau] seems scarcely inclined to insist on the truth of the statement which he himself makes of Dr. Dudley's success; what would he say to ours? We may add, however, to remove any shadow of doubt, that one hundred and thirty-two of these operations were performed in the small city of Lexington, where the members of the faculty, the students, the citizens of the town, and the nurses, who saw the operations, and would immediately have been informed of a fatal result in any case, will all corroborate the statement. For the peculiarities of Dr. Dudley's treatment of these cases, we refer to his paper on calculous affections, in the last volume of this journal. At the time of the publication of that paper he had operated on one hundred and thirty-five persons for stone, and since that time he has successfully performed the operation on three others. A remarkable circumstance attending these is, that the two next cases after the date of that publication were both of young men of twenty-one years of age, who had congenital calculi; had been affected with stone from the time of their birth."

In the same number of the "Journal," Dr. Bush reports the 139th case of success in a boy between six and seven years of age. "A dozen professional gentlemen of Lexington can testify that the boy was untied in forty seconds from the time the first incision was made."

We would respectfully suggest to Dr. Dudley, as incredulity manifestly exists on account of the extraordinary success which he is said to have obtained, to publish a tabular view of all his cases, so that the profession may have full opportunity for judging on the matter. We are aware that in a communication given in a previous volume of the journal before us,¹ he states that four individuals died after the operation, but no one before the bladder was closed, or within the ordinary period required for the healing of the organ. Dr. Dudley's success has certainly been most extraordinary, and he strongly merits the encomiums that have been passed upon him in a recent number of a cotemporary journal.²

ART. X.—PATRONAGE OF QUACKS.

Under this title we meet with the following comments in the pages of a western cotemporary.³

"PATRONAGE OF QUACKS.

"The *London Medico-Chirurgical Review*, for Oct. 1836, has a page under this title. The learned editor, Dr. Johnson, seems but recently to have met with the category of distinguished names, which testify to the transcendent virtues of Swaim's Panacea. He has immortalised them in his widely circulated journal; for this we cannot blame him, but as *Americans*, we are kept from recording them in our humble quarterly. They are, indeed, already but too well known throughout the land. When the medical dignitaries of the enlightened *east* can allow themselves to stoop so low, what may not be tolerated in the *back-woods*? The stream cannot rise above its fountain—but let us come to the extract.

"*Patronage of Quacks.*—We thought that in England, quackery flourished with unexampled vigour, but we were mistaken. It is rarely that the quack here is able to entrap the regular physician or surgeon into an open patron, certifying under his hand

¹ *Transylvania Journal of Medicine*, vol. ix.

² *American Journal of the Medical Sciences*, for May, 1837. p. 163.

³ *The Western Journal of Medical and Physical Sciences*, edited by Drs. Drake and Wood, for Jan., Feb., and March, 1837. p. 622.

and seal the mighty virtues of an unknown composition, vended for gain and for gain alone. Not so beyond the Atlantic! We were utterly astonished to find an impudent *panacea* bolstered up with the names and certificates of some of the first authorities in the medical profession of the United States! We were thunderstruck on perusing such documents as the following,—some twenty or thirty being obtained by a noted nostrum-vender in the land of freedom.'

"Here come in the certificates of four distinguished medical gentlemen of Philadelphia and New York, which a sense of shame will not permit us to copy.

"*Eheu, jam satis!* We are mortified and grieved beyond measure, to find professional *propriety* (to give it no other name) at so low an ebb among our brethren in America! This admonition from Europe will surely rouse the faculty of the United States to some sense of the duty they owe to their brethren throughout the world."

We take occasion to remark on this point, more for the information of our brethren on the other side of the Atlantic, where we know our journal is read, than here, that the fact to which allusion is made did not happen within certainly the last fifteen years; that it was then no criterion of the feelings of the profession in this country with respect to quackery; that it has met with marked disapprobation, and, we have every reason to believe, has been the source of unmixed regret to the respectable gentlemen whose names are attached to the certificate in question. It was the error—solitary in its kind—of the individuals concerned, certainly not of the American medical profession.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

*Report of the New Haven County Medical Society against Quackery.*¹

It appears that the general assembly of the state of Connecticut, at their session in May, 1836, received petitions from various parts of the state, praying for a repeal of the 8th section of the "Act to incorporate the Connecticut Medical Society." By a vote of the general assembly, these petitions were postponed to the next session of the assembly, with an order for a citation to the Medical Society. In consequence of this citation, the Medical Society of New Haven County, at their annual meeting in April 1837, adopted the report before us as expressive of their views in regard to the expediency of the proposed measure.

It is a pointed, pithy, and forcible production; referring in no equivocal manner to the friends of that empirical system, which prevails extensively over every part of the Union, and from which the petitions to the legislature of Connecticut are said to have emanated. The account which it gives of the system we shall lay ere long before our readers.

As a specimen of the report we extract the following argument:—

"The principle for which we would here contend is simply this,—*That it is the right and duty of government to protect the people in every possible way against any trade, or craft, or profession, in which the public has peculiar interest, and the temptations to defraud and deceive are*

¹ A Report of the New Haven County Medical Society on the expediency of repealing that section of the medical laws of the state which excludes irregular practitioners from the benefits of law in the collection of fees. 8vo, pp. 16. New Haven, 1837.

great. This principle is recognised on almost every page of our statute-book. In accordance with it, millers are forbidden to take but a certain amount of toll. No person can sell certain kinds of goods at auction without a license. 'No person shall set up or carry on the trade or mystery of tanning leather, except he prove his skill therein,' 'and obtain a license therefor,' under a penalty of sixty-seven dollars. Why? Because the tanning of leather requires skill, and because leather is an article in which extensive fraud is practicable. No man can ship beef, fish, flour, onions, hay, shingles, &c., to a foreign market, unless they have been inspected and approved. Beef for exportation must be, at least two years old, cut and cured in a certain manner, &c. These inconveniences (restrictions on personal rights, if you please,) must be submitted to, to prevent imposition, and to secure a good character and market abroad.

"In accordance with this same principle, it has been further enacted that 'no person shall keep a district school, until he has been examined and approved by the visitors of the school society,' and shall receive a certificate of his qualifications for a teacher. Why? Because the business of school-teaching requires some knowledge, and because evils would be the consequence of committing it to incompetent men. Neither shall any person practise as an attorney, unless he be approved, admitted, and sworn 'agreeably to the rules established' by the court, unless it be in his own case; 'nor shall more than one attorney be allowed to plead on the same side of any cause,' with certain exceptions; 'and in no case shall more than two attorneys be admitted to plead on the same side.' All these embarrassments the friends of 'free trade' and 'equal rights' must submit to, because the public good (always a higher object than individual good,) requires some such measures to prevent the evils of protracted litigation, and the imposition of unqualified and designing men.

"The whole license system recognises and exemplifies the principle under consideration,—that the free exercise of certain vocations by all, without restraint or condition, is not consistent with the highest general good. Innkeepers are required to obtain a license, give a bond for the observance of the laws, conform to certain regulations regarding the selling of liquors and the preservation of morals, &c.

"All these restraints on the business of society and of individuals—constraints similar to those enacted by every civilised government on earth—sufficiently prove the truth and justice of the principle we have been considering; or, at least, show that it is recognised and acted upon continually in our statute-book, which fact is all that is required for our present purpose. Therefore, in order to show the propriety of legislative interference in regard to the practice of physic, it only remains for us to prove that the medical art is *similar* in its nature, and in its relations to society, to other arts and occupations, which, it is agreed, are proper subjects of legislation,—a thing which, in fact, has already been done. If we mistake not, we have shown that the medical art, in its relation to the public welfare, holds a very high rank in importance, certainly as high as the art of the schoolmaster or tanner. We have shown, too, that medicine is a difficult and comprehensive study, requiring natural talent, and a long period of diligent training, in such as would practise it successfully, and is not surpassed in these respects by any art or profession whatever, whether it be pleading, or tanning, or school-keeping. Furthermore, we have shown that the business of a physician offers very great advantages for imposition to artful, incompetent and irresponsible men, certainly as great as the advantages of the attorney, the pedagogue, the auctioneer, the taverner, or the tanner. Are we not right, then, when we contend that the present medical laws ought not to be repealed, that ignorant and unqualified men ought not to practise physic, and that the guards and barriers which the public now have against imposture ought not to be removed?"

It need scarcely be added, that the report is throughout unfavourable to the petitioners.

*Herzfeld on the Nitrate of Silver in Burns.*¹

The object of this neatly "got up" essay is to recommend that the vesications in cases of burns and scalds should be opened, and the denuded cutis touched with the nitrate of silver, until a kind of coating is formed over the raw surface (*donec vero pasta formata est*),—a course recommended by J. E. Cox, and by J. C. G. Fricke, of Hamburg, to the latter of whom the essay before us is dedicated. Two cases are given.

It would seem that the pain was not much augmented by the immediate application of the caustic; and that immediately afterwards it remitted, and the condition of the patient was much improved. (*Cauterii applicatione dolores non multum adaucti; e contrario, quod mirandum, dolores usque hac vehementissimi remittebant, statusque melior generalis ægroti efficiebatur.* p. 40.)

Dr. Herzfeld properly thinks that the application is excitant. We have little question that by virtue of this property it reduces the over-dilated capillaries to their former dimensions, whilst the crust formed by it prevents the irritating influence of the air on the denuded surface.

*Sir A. Cooper's Principles and Practice of Surgery.*²

This volume of a new edition of the works of the distinguished English surgeon lays claim to the following improvements over its predecessors.

"1. The editor has availed himself of what he conceived to be the most correct text of the lectures first published in the 'Lancet,' comparing them with Mr. Tyrrel's edition, as far as it extends, together with his own MS. notes, and those kindly furnished him by his friends. 2. The diseases of the testis are illustrated by highly finished engravings, both of the morbid and healthy structure, preceded by the descriptive anatomy of those organs from Sir Astley's work on the testis. 3. The descriptive anatomy of hernia, with coloured drawings. 4. The diseases of the breast, with their morbid appearances. And 5. Dislocations and fractures will be fully illustrated in a similar manner."—Preface, vi.

The "Lectures" are chiefly on irritation, inflammation, suppuration, ulceration, acute and chronic abscess, granulation, ulcers, gangrene, injuries of the head, compression of the brain, wounds of the brain, wounds of the scalp, aneurism, hydrocele, diseases of the testicle, diseases of the breast, urinary calculi, lithotomy, operations for retention of urine, fistula in ano, polypus of the nose, paracentesis of the abdomen, hare-lip, and amputation; but the captions are by no means distinctive or precise.

The lithographs are fifteen in number, and well executed.

¹ *De Lapidis infernalis usu externo in Ambustionibus, Commentatio Medico-Chirurgica quam publico eruditorum examini submittit Cæsar Herzfeld.* 8vo, pp. 43. Hamburg, 1835.

² *The Principles and Practice of Surgery, founded on the most extensive hospital and private practice during a period of nearly fifty years: with numerous plates, illustrative both of healthy and diseased structure.* By Sir Astley Cooper, Bart., F. R. S., Sergeant Surgeon to the King, formerly Lecturer on Anatomy and Surgery at Guy's and St. Thomas's Hospitals, now Consulting Surgeon to Guy's. Edited by Alexander Lee, M. A., M. D. Editor and Translator of *Celsus de Medicina*, &c. 8vo, pp. 490. London, 1836.

Cormack on Creosote.¹

This short treatise is divided into two parts; the *first* comprising the chemical history of creosote, mode of preparation, &c.; the *second*, the history of those substances whose medicinal properties seem to depend on the presence of creosote, and the physiological and medicinal properties of creosote. We may hereafter reprint it in the "Library."

Professor N. R. Smith.—This distinguished surgeon has likewise withdrawn from the University of Maryland, so that there are now three vacancies in the medical department. Professor Smith's withdrawal is a serious loss. He possesses qualifications with which few are gifted. He is an able lecturer, well acquainted with every thing that has been done in his department, at home and abroad; fertile in resources, and an admirable operator. His professional services will not be lost, however, to Baltimore; one of his objects in retiring, we learn, being to devote himself to the duties of an extensive and augmenting practice.

Transylvania Journal of Medicine.—The editorship of this respectable journal has passed into the hands of Dr. Robert Peter, Professor of Chemistry in Morrison College, Transylvania University. "The medical faculty of Transylvania University will be its immediate upholders, and the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Lexington will materially aid by their valuable communications." The number before us, for January, February, and March last, bears ample evidence of the industry and capability of the new editor.

*Great Dropsical Effusion.*²—In a late number of the "Western Journal of the Medical and Physical Sciences," a case is given by Dr. J. B. Beall, of Missouri, of a man labouring under ascites, who was tapped ninety-six times, between the 18th of January, and the 13th of December, 1835; the operation being required every five or six days. The whole quantity of fluid discharged amounted to two hundred and seventy-five gallons and two quarts! The average daily secretion, in that period, being upwards of two pints and a half.

Transylvania Medical School and Professor Caldwell.—On a recent occasion³ we expressed our regret that in consequence of dissensions that had arisen in the faculty, it had been deemed expedient by the trustees of Transylvania University, to remove all the professors, and go into a fresh election. Since that time, we have received Louisville journals and Lexington Intelligencers extra, full of crimination and recrimination, as well as the Transylvania Journal of Medicine,⁴ avowedly upheld by the faculty of

¹ A Treatise on the Chemical, Medicinal, and Physiological Properties of Creosote, illustrated by experiments on the lower animals, with some considerations on the embalmment of the Egyptians; being the Herveian prize dissertation for 1836. By John Rose Cormack, Member of the Royal Medical and Royal Physical Societies of Edinburgh. "My taste for dead bodies and every thing like mummy is decided." Carathis in Vathek. 8vo, pp. 154. Edinburgh, 1836.

² Transylvania Journal of Medicine, &c., for Jan., Feb., and March, 1837, p. 175.

³ "Intelligencer," May 1, p. 55.

⁴ Vol. X., No. 1, for January, February, and March, p. 164.

the University. From all these we learn that it has been considered right by the board to remove Professor Caldwell from his situation. In the absence of all the evidence, it is impossible for us to pronounce on the justice or policy of this unquestionably strong measure; weighty reasons ought to have existed before the trustees could determine to deprive the school of the services of one of the best read and most talented physicians of the day; and one who, we are informed, is as felicitous in the communication of his views to his class, as he is in recording them with his pen. There are few men, indeed, who are so favourably known abroad, as well as at home, as Professor Caldwell. At this moment we have under our eye an English advertisement of his "*Thoughts on Physical Education*," with notes by Robert Cox, and a recommendatory preface by Geo. Combe. Edinburgh, 1836. The defection of such a man—forced or voluntary—from any institution is an evil to be deplored.

Graduates of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy.—The annual commencement of this useful institution was held on the evening of the 8th of May.

Daniel B. Smith, President of the College, delivered an address on the occasion, and the degree of Graduate in Pharmacy was conferred on the following named young gentlemen:—Joseph M. Turner, thesis on *Symplocarpus Fœtidus*; John W. Simes, *Solanum Dulcamara*; Henry C. Blair, *Hypericum perforatum*; James L. Elliott, *Magnolia Glauca*; Gustavus Ober, *Spigelia Marilandica*; Robert J. Kennedy, *Serpentaria Virginiana*; Benj. F. Hockley, *Iodide of Potassium*; William Proctor, Jr., *Lobelia Inflata*; Thomas R. F. Mitchell, *Veratrum Viride*; John Goodyear, *Neutral Mixture*; Wm. L. Hasbrouch, *Angustura Bark*.

Diminution in the use of Calomel, in certain situations.—In our first number (p. 5) we gave some statistics regarding the rotation of medicines as indicated by the prescriptions in an extensive apothecary's establishment in Dublin, and we stated that they might suggest reminiscences to some of our readers, which might furnish interesting matter for the physicians of this country. A friend has informed us of a fact of this nature which fell under his own observation. Twenty years ago, a gentleman, then in extensive practice in Baltimore, was in the habit of using from sixteen to twenty half pounds of calomel yearly, this at least was the quantity furnished him by his apothecary; whilst at the present day the quantity dispensed or retailed in one of the most respectable and extensive *pharmacies* of this city—that of M. Durand—is not more than three pounds annually. One single medical practitioner of Baltimore, in other words, twenty years ago dispensed six or seven times as much as a *pharmacien* in full business of the present day.

NECROLOGY.

Dr. George Macartney Bushe.—This eminent surgeon, who has for some years enjoyed extensive practice in the city of New York, died of phthisis, on the 17th of April, in the 39th year of his age. Dr. Bushe came out to this country to fill the chair of anatomy in Rutgers Medical College; and on

the breaking up of that institution he devoted himself to the practice of his profession, in which he obtained much celebrity, especially as a surgeon. A work of his on the diseases of the rectum has just been announced, but it has not yet reached us.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

From Dr. Henry Bronson.—A Report of the New Haven County Medical Society, on the expediency of repealing that section of the medical laws of this state, which excludes irregular practitioners from the benefits of law in the collection of fees. 8vo, pp. 16. London, 1837.

From Dr. J. M. Warren, of Boston.—The Boston Medical and Surgical Journal;—three recent numbers, one of which contains the details of his well planned and well executed rhinoplastie operation.

A Series of Anatomical plates in Lithography, &c. Edited by Jones Quain, M. D., late Professor in the University of London. Fol. fascicul. 45 and 46. Division II., Veins 3 and 4. London, 1837.

Guy's Hospital Reports. Edited by Geo. H. Barlow, M. A. & L. M. Trin. Coll. Camb. &c., and James P. Babington, M. A. Trin. Coll. Camb. &c. Vol. I. pp. 670. London, 1836.

Lectures on Subjects connected with Clinical Medicine. By P. M. Latham, M. D., Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, &c. 12mo, pp. 322. London, 1836.

St. Thomas's Hospital Reports. By John F. South, Assistant Surgeon. Vol. I. 8vo, pp. 447. London, 1836.

Encyklopädie der Gesammten Medicinischen und Chirurgischen Praxis, mit Einschluss der Geburtshülfe, der Augenheilkunde und der Operativchirurgie. Im vereine mit mehreren praktischen Aerzten und Wundärzten herausgegeben von Georg Friedrich Most, Doctor der Philosophie, Medicin und Chirurgie u. s. w. Zweite, stark vermehrte und verbesserte Auflage. Heft. 1, 2, 3, (A—Dysphagia). 8vo, pp. 576. Leipzig, 1836.

From Dr. Forbes of the "British and Foreign Medical Review."

Nervi Facialis Physiologia et Pathologia. Dissertatio inauguralis, &c., eruditorum examini submittit Bartholdus Gaedecheus, Med. Chir. et Art. Obstetric. Doctor, Hamburgensis. 4to, pp. 50. Heidelbergæ, 1832.

Beschreibung und Abbildung eines neuerfundenen Künstlichen Fusses, zum ersatz des ober und unterschenkels. Von Margarethe Caroline Eichler. Mit 2 lithographirten Tafeln. 8vo, pp. 44. Berlin, 1834.

De Obscuracionibus Corneæ, dissertatio inauguralis medica quam, &c. &c. publice defensurus est auctor Carol. Guil. Eduard Cæsar, Rhenano-Borussus. 8vo, pp. 32. Berolin, 1836.

Observationes Necrologicæ quas, ut locum in facultate medica universitatis litterariæ Fridericæ Guillemæ rite obtinerit, evulgavit Fridericus Schlemm, Medicinæ et Chirurgiæ Doctor, in Universitate Litter. Friderica Guillemæ Professor Publicus Ordinarius, &c. Cum 3 Tabulis æri incisis. 4to, pp. 22. Berolini, 1834.

Dissertatio inauguralis anatomico-chirurgica de Hernia Diaphragmatis quam auctoritate atque consensu gratiosi medicorum Heidelbergensium ordinis eruditorum examini submittit Hubertus Griffioen Stierling, Medic. Chirurg. Artisq. Obstetric Doctor. 4to, pp. 16. Tabulis iii. æneis. Heidelbergæ, 1834.

Commentatio de hydropo ovariorum profluente qua viro excellentissimo, amplissimo, prænobilissimo Joanni a Wiebel Medicinæ et chirurgiæ doctori, archiatro regis Borussiae, &c. &c. solemnibus muneris semisecularia Calendis M. Octobris a. MDCCCXXXIV., celebranti gratulatur Ernestus Blasius Medicinæ et Chirurgiæ Doctor et Professor Halensis. 4to, pp. 20. Halæ, 1834.